

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5 and 9-25 have been currently pending. Claims 3, 7 and 8 have been cancelled. Support for the amendment to claims 1 and 2 may be found in the specification as originally filed, for example in original claim 7.

I. The Art Rejections

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 11, 20, 21, 22 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as allegedly being clearly anticipated by Jensen, Jr. 4,728,552.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 10, 11, 22 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as allegedly being anticipated by Tolles, 6,533,645, or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Tolles, 6,533,645 in view of Jensen, Jr. 4,728,552.

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over either Tolles, 6,533,645 or Jensen, Jr. 4,728,552.

Claims 12-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Jensen, Jr. 4,728,552.

Claims 16-18 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Tolles, 6,533,645 in view of Koike et al., 6,544,104.

Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Tolles, 6,533,645 or Jensen, Jr. 4,728,552 in view of Roberts et al., 6,022,268.

Claim 23 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Tolles, 6,533,645.

Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention is not anticipated by or obvious over the disclosures of Jensen or Tolles, alone or in combination, or in combination with the secondary references, and request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw these rejections in view of the following remarks.

The subject matter of claim 7 has been incorporated into claims 1 and 2. Claim 7 was not rejected based on Jensen.

Claims 1 and 2 recite both recite a polishing pad comprising the following elements: a fiber including organic fiber and a matrix resin holding the fiber, wherein the organic fiber is an aromatic polyamide, the polishing pad contains the organic fiber in an amount of 1 to 50 wt %, at least the organic fiber is exposed on the work material-side surface thereof and the matrix resin contains at least one thermoplastic resin.

By the use of fiber in a small amount of 1 to 50 wt% based on the total weight of polishing pad (the weight of matrix resin and all fibers), the polishing pad of the present invention can provide the reduced scratches while maintaining the molding efficiency regardless of the material component of the matrix resin. And, in case of optical detection, the optically transparent region including the small amount of fiber can achieve sufficient light transmittance and allows detection of the polishing state of the wafer such as endpoint. These unexpected improvements achieved by Applicants' invention are discussed in Applicants' disclosure at page 15, line 26 to page 16, line 15.

Furthermore, Applicants' invention using an aromatic polyamide (aramide) fiber also provides unexpected superiority in the properties of retention of abrasive particles by the fiber and durability of the pad. See Applicants' disclosures at page 12, line 19 to page 13, line 3.

On the other hand, Jensen and Tolles do not contain any description or suggestion of the claimed constituent features and effects of the invention. For example, Jensen seems to disclose the content of fiber of 67wt% - 79wt%, i.e., $1/(0.50+1)$ to $1/(0.26+1)$ by calculation from of the present application. And Tolles discloses the content of fiber of 50wt% - 67wt%, i.e., $1/(1+1)$ to $2/(2+1)$. In Jensen, the preferred fiber is polyester.

The other cited documents do not relate the fiber content or material component of fiber and thus do not overcome the deficiencies in the primary references Jensen and Tolles.

For the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of claims 1, 2, 4, 5 and 9-25 is neither taught by nor made obvious from the disclosures of Jensen or Tolles, alone or in combination, or in combination with the secondary references, and it is requested that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§102 and 103 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

II. Conclusion

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that their claimed invention is allowable and ask that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 and the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103 be reconsidered and withdrawn. Applicants respectfully submit that this case is in condition for allowance and allowance is respectfully solicited.

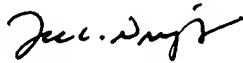
Application No.: 10/551,457
Art Unit: 3723

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. §1.111
Attorney Docket No.: 053197

If any points remain at issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the local exchange number listed below.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,
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